

The State of Washington

# CAPAA

COMMISSION ON  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans



## Executive Director's Report

September 14, 2013  
Everett Community College  
2000 Tower St  
Everett, WA 98201

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### 1. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- **2013-2015 Biennial Operating Budget:** The agency's 2013-2015 operating budget totals \$420,000 compared to the previous two-year budget of \$446,000 through June 30, 2013. The reduction is due to efficiencies in the administrative services provided by the Department of Enterprise Services for small agencies like CAPAA.

### 2. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION:

- **New Executive Assistant:** Amy Van joined the agency in July. Van is a 1.5 generation Vietnamese-American born in Vietnam and raised in Seattle, Washington. She attended the University of Washington where she received her bachelor's degree from the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies with a focus on development. She has experience researching education policy and its ground effects internationally in India and China, and currently devotes that energy and curiosity towards a more local agenda.
- **Website:** A recent study by the Office of Financial Management determined website design and maintenance services could be provided at a reduced cost with greater efficiency by the private sector. Over the next several months, the agency will transition its website from the state to one of three qualified vendors approved by the Department of Enterprise Services. This will be an opportunity for the agency to evaluate its online presence and make enhancements based on current needs.
- **Results Washington:** Governor Inslee launched Results Washington—a new performance management initiative that will help strengthen our economy, improve our schools and make Washington an ideal place to live and do business. CAPAA has participated on the Prosperous Economy Goal Council and provided feedback on the other goal areas. Feedback from the Asian and Pacific Islander communities is vital to ensure this effort reflects the priorities of all Washingtonians. The public can engage at <http://www.results.wa.gov>.
- **Casework System:** The agency continues to maintain an online casework system. The number of requests for assistance from the agency remains steady.

### 3. LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

- **Special Session:** On June 12<sup>th</sup>, a second special legislative session was called to finish the 2013-2015 state operating budget. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Legislature passed the state budget and sent it to the Governor for his signature. The Governor signed the budget into law on June 30<sup>th</sup>. CAPAA sent out a summary of budget items that will impact children, families, and businesses in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Some highlights include an additional \$1 billion investment in basic education, more opportunities for our youngest learners to attend preschool and all-day kindergarten, a one year tuition freeze for students attending state colleges, and access to more affordable health care made available by the Affordable Care Act.

#### 4. OUTREACH:

- **Statewide Outreach:** Staff have attended more than 60 meetings and events with stakeholders, governmental entities and community organizations in the last three months, in addition to the numerous events our commissioners have attended in each of their regions.
  - **Community Connections:** Staff met with numerous community leaders and community-based organizations in our Community Connections Network to hear about issues and concerns facing their unique communities. When necessary, casework and policy issues are brought to the attention of the Governor’s Office, federal agencies, state agencies, legislative members and municipalities.
- **Federal Outreach:** Our agency continues to maintain relationships with federal agencies to stay apprised of policies impacting the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in our state.
  - **White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:** Staff attended an AAPI community roundtable discussion with Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama, in Seattle’s International District. Hyeok Kim, a local member of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the Executive Director of InterIm Community Development Association, moderated a vibrant discussion on health care, immigration reform and economic development issues.
  - **Hepatitis B Discrimination:** Staff joined community leaders at a meeting with Representative Adam Smith regarding APA medical students and service members who have been discriminated against due to their chronic Hepatitis B status. In the U.S., 2 million residents have this virus, with APIs representing half of the cases. The federal government recognizes chronic Hepatitis B as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Community leaders are asking for fair treatment for persons with Hepatitis B.
- **Agency Outreach:** Staff continues to connect with members of the agency’s Asian Pacific American State Agency Liaison Network (APASAL Network). These monthly check-ins serve as an important way to cover current policies and programs for the AAPI community, partnership opportunities, assistance requests, recommendations and policy issues with state agencies.
  - **Department of Enterprise Services:** Staff attended a DES Services Customer Meeting / Open House to discuss new DES service offerings, new rate structures, proposed service level commitments, upcoming process improvement projects, and to meet members of the small agency services team.
  - **Department of Social and Health Services:** Staff met with Colleen Yamaguchi with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to discuss DSHS's recruiting efforts to communities of color.
  - **Department of Financial Institutions:** A brochure about the Foreclosure Fairness Act (RCW 61.24) will be available in 10 languages, including Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Cambodian, Tagalog and Samoan. The FFA requires lenders to notify borrowers, prior to initiating the foreclosure, of the availability of foreclosure counseling and the potential for foreclosure mediation.
  - **Office of the Attorney General:** Staff alerted the AG’s office about the “blessing scam” impacting elderly Chinese women. The AG’s office responded by sending out a Consumer Alert about the scam, which involves thieves who steal valuables from elderly Chinese women by taking advantage of their spiritual beliefs.

- **Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises:** Alexis Oliver became the new director in August. OMWBE and the ethnic Commissions are working to bring together minority business owners to Olympia in 2014 to discuss economic development strategies with policymakers.
- **Office of the Education Ombudsman:** Stacy Gillett became the new director in August. Our previous liaison is no longer with the agency, but OEO has informed CAPAA that they intend to continue to partner with the Asian and Pacific Islander communities and the Commission to respond to and reach out to families.
- **Human Rights Commission:** HRC is working on securing funding to produce brochures on fair housing that will outline what constitutes housing discrimination, a person’s rights under the law, and how to file a complaint. The brochures would be available in several API languages. HRC intends to send one of its commissioners to CAPAA board meetings and to work more closely with the agency on serving the API community.
- **Department of Labor and Industries:** Suchi Sharma is our new agency liaison. Sharma is Counsel for Executive Policy. Previously, she worked as an Assistant Attorney General, advising and litigating on behalf of the Department of Labor and Industries’ Employment Standards and Apprenticeship sections. Sharma reported that LNI will be participating at the following consumer events: State Fair – Puyallup, Everett Fall Home & Gift Show, Portland Fall home & Garden Show, Seattle Fall Home Show, Tri Cities Fall Home Show, Peninsula Home & Remodel, and Puyallup Home & Garden Show.

LNI will be conducting workshops for new businesses or businesses that plan to hire for the first time (more info: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/TrainTools/Workshops/Available/WorkshopInfo.asp?WkshopID=78>). In addition, Free Contractor Training Days are available on subjects including safety, managing your claims to control your workers' compensation costs, public works contracting, business planning, and risk management (more info: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Contractors/Workshops/Contractor>).

- **Department of Revenue:** Our liaison, Rick Stedman, provided several updates from DOR. The agency has a mobile app available to help businesses look up the correct sales tax rate by visiting [www.dor.wa.gov/TaxRateMobile](http://www.dor.wa.gov/TaxRateMobile). To help the public understand the tax obligations for specific industries, the Department of Revenue has a few dozen online guides, including landscaping, convenience stores, construction, and many others on its website at [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov).

**Zapper bill addresses tax evasion:** Effective July 28, 2013, Senate Bill (SB) 5715 (Chapter 309, Laws of 2013) makes it a class C felony to commit tax fraud using automated sales suppression software, commonly known as “zappers.” Under the legislation, persons convicted of selling, installing, or designing zappers will be subject to an additional mandatory fine that is the greater of \$10,000 or the amount of tax that the retailer didn’t pay.

**Use tax exemption for goods purchased from a nonprofit fundraiser:** Effective October 1, 2013, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5882 Part XIV (Chapter 13, Laws of 2013) provides an exemption from use tax for any article of personal property, valued at \$10,000 or less, purchased or received as a prize from a nonprofit organization or library as part of a fundraising activity. This exemption expires on July 1, 2017.

**Personal home rentals:** Some property owners don’t realize they may be required to collect and remit retail sales tax – and any applicable local lodging taxes/fees – if they rent out their homes for periods of

less than 30 days. Sales tax must be collected on transient rentals during the first calendar year in which the property owner exceeds two transient rentals. Sales tax applies on the third transient rental during that year. Sales tax also applies on any subsequent transient rentals. For details, see our [Fact on Personal Home Rentals](#).

- **Department of Health:** Staff connected with Maria Gardipee. As a result of previous discussions with CAPPAA, the Department of Health has initiated an assessment of services and programs currently related to API communities. Information will serve as a base for further discussions about improving services to API communities and to identify subject topic experts for future speaking requests received from Commissions.
- **WA State Department of Veterans Affairs:** DVA contacted CAPAA regarding an issue impacting the Vietnamese-American community. Since 2006, a non-profit called the Joint American-Vietnamese War Memorial Alliance has been attempting to locate a home to place a memorial for American and South Vietnamese veterans. This group requested that CAPAA write a letter supporting their efforts to locate a memorial in the City of Auburn.
- **Department of Early Learning:** Staff met with Director Bette Hyde and Government and Community Relations Manager Amy Blondin to discuss early learning programs and areas where CAPAA and DEL can work together.
- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction:** Betty Klattenhoff and Phouang Hamilton from OSPI's Career and Technical Education program will be providing an update to the Commission in person at the Board meeting.
- **Department of Commerce:** Richard Locke, Executive Director for DOC's Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness, will be providing an update to the Commission in person at the Board meeting.

## 5. CAPAA COMMISSION:

- **New Commissioners Appointed:** Didi Cabusao and Lynette Finau join the CAPAA board. Didi is a clinical dietitian at Yakima Valley School and is a board member for the Filipino American Community of Yakima Valley. She has over 10 years experience with the Yakima County Senior Nutrition Program and more than 15 years clinical experience in a hospital and nursing home setting.

Lynette is a co-instructor, lecturer, and facilitator for AAPI Courses in Pacific Islander History at the AANAPISI Center at South Seattle Community College. She taught in the Marysville School District and is one of a small group of Pacific Islander certificated teachers in the state.

- **Board Meetings:** The Commission will hold its last board meeting in 2013 on November 16 at the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington in Seattle. More details can be found on our website.
- **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The Commission has begun to organize a community celebration to mark its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This event will bring together youth, community leaders and current and former Commissioners and staff to celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future.

## 6. UPDATE ON ISSUE AREAS:

- **Education:**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative:** The Commission continues to support grassroots efforts engaged during the Asian American and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative. Our Future Matters, a group of Pacific Islander youth, will bring together youth, parents and community members at UPRISE – Pacific Islander Education Summit on October 5<sup>th</sup> at Highline Community College. The Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition (SEAEED) is organizing a mentorship program to support Southeast Asian youth.
- **Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee:** Commissioner Takamura and Sili Savusa continue to serve as our community representatives on this committee. The Committee will continue to educate the community on its recommendations to help close the opportunity gap that were contained in House Bill 1680.
- **Student Discipline Task Force:** Matt Vaena, a leader in the Pacific Islander community and member of Our Future Matters, will be CAPAA’s representative to the newly formed Student Discipline Task Force as required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5946 (ESSB 5946). The Task Force will meet 3-4 times in 2013 to discuss student disciplinary policies in school and how it impacts students of color.

- **Health Care and Human Services:**

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Disparities Initiative:** Commissioner Aragon continues to represent the Commission on the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities. The Commission is working to ensure the needs of the community are met as the Affordable Care Act is implemented. The Commission sent a letter urging the Office of the Insurance Commissioner to reconsider including one or more Medicaid insurance plans in the new Health Benefit Exchange.

Commissioners Dash and Aragon will moderate a **Community Forum on the Affordable Care Act** on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 PM at the Sheraton Bellevue. This event is sponsored by the WA State India Trade Relations Action Committee, CAPAA, ACRS and state and local health organizations.

- **Marijuana excise taxes:** Due to the passage of Initiative 502, the state will begin levying and collecting an excise tax on the sale of marijuana. The initiative designates portions of the revenue to the Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services for marijuana education, prevention, and treatment. Due to marijuana’s disproportionate impact on youth of color, CAPAA will coordinate with the other Ethnic Commissions to ensure these funds are used for community-based education, prevention and treatment.
- **Economic Development:** Staff is working closely with the other Ethnic Commissions on an event to engage the AAPI business community and other minority business owners in discussions around state contracting, the regulatory environment, and small business support.